

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 USIA-06

SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 H-01 /057 W

-----190047Z 106415 /63

R 181032Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, SHUM, BU

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES

REF: A. SOFIA 0530 B. STATE 057164

1. DURING MARCH 17 INTERVIEW WITH MFA CONSULAR DIVISION CHIEF ZHELENSKI, AX SAID WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE POSITION OF KOVACHEV THAT GOB "OBJECTS" TO EMBASSY CONTACTING BULGARIANS FOR WHOM WE HAVE DOCUMENTATION PERMITTING US TO ISSUE THEM AMERICAN VISAS OR WHO MAY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF INQUIRIES FROM THEIR AMERICAN RELATIVES. AMB ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE LIST OF 14 CASES WHICH KOVACHEV HAD SAIFW COULD NOT HAVE.

2. ZHELENSKI PRODUCED A LETTER FROM A BULGARIAN CONTACTED BY THE EMBASSY WHO HAD SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO TRAVEL TO AMERICA, CLAIMING THAT BULGARIAN HAD "COMPLAINED" THAT THE EMBASSY WAS TRYING TO INDUCE HIM TO TRAVEL THERE. AMB SAID WE ARE NOT TRYING TO INDUCE ANYONE BUT ARE CONVEYING FACTUAL INFORMATION IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER OUR CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE. THIS WAS NORMAL PRACTICE OF CONSULATES EVERYWHERE. ZHELENSKI THEREUPON TOOK POSITION THAT SINCE GOB WAS INTERPOSING NO OBSTACLES TO THE DEPARTURE OF BULGARIANS AND WAS NOTIFYING ALL PERSONS CONCERNED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT EFFECT, THERE WAS "NO NEED" FOR EMBASSY TO CONTACT THEM ALSO. WE HAD NO BUSINESS "INVITING" SUCH PEOPLE TO COME TO AMERICA. AMB REITERATED OUR POSITION AND MATTER WAS LEFT WITHOUT CONCLUSION.

3. AS FOR THE 14 CASES, ZHELENSKI SAID "FRANKLY" THAT THE REASON WHY THEY COULD NOT GIVE US THE LIST WAS BECAUSE

THEY DID NOT HAVE FULL DATA ON ALL X HEM. WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS THAT BULGARIAN EMBASSY HAD SUBMITTED WHAT INFORMATION IT HAD TO SOFIA AND THE MINISTRY HAD SAID, IN EFFECT, "SETTLE THEM ALL."

4. INTERESTINGLY, ZHELENSKI PLACED SOME EMPHASIS ON CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN SOME OF THESE CASES. HE SAID WHEN BULGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD REPORTED SUCM INTEREST, THE MINISTRY HAD CABLED BACK SAYING THAT THE SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THAT FAVORABLE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO SETTLE THE DIVIDED FAMILY CASE IN WHICH HE WAS INTERESTED. AMB SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THIS, AND IF MFA DID NOT HAVE FULL DATA PERHAPS THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON C BE INSTRUCTED TO GIVE WHAT THEY HAVE TO THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD THEN FORWARD THE DATA TO US. WE NEEDED THEM IF WE WERE TO ISSUE VISAS EXPEDITIOUSLY.

5. SUGGEST DEPT AGAIN CONTACT BULGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, REFER TO AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH ZHELENSKI MARCH 17, AND ASK FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION, EN IF NOT COMPLETE, THEY HAVE ON THE 14 CASES WHICH, ACCORDING TO MFA, HAVE BEEN SETTLED. IT SHOULD PERHAPS BE EXPLAINED THAT THESE CASES WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVELY DISPOSED OF AS DIVIDED FAMILY CASES UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO ISSUE VISAS, AND THAT WE CANNOT GIVE THE GOB "CREDIT" IF WE DON'T KNOW THAT SUCH CASES ARE PARHX THE TOTAL OF WHICH BULGARIANS HAVE TOLD US IN WASHINGTON AND SOFIA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, EXIT PERMITS, DEPENDENTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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